DOCKET NO.: **13-0006
Application No.: 09/915,425
Office Action Dated: July 14, 2008

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the application. Claims 1-29 stand rejected. Claims 30-37 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 18, 19 and 25 are the independent claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-29 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson et al (Pat. No. 5,825,854; hereinafter "Larson") in view of Prust (Pat No. 6,714,968).

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include limitations found in neither Larson nor Prust. Claim 1 now reads, in part,

> a first receiving portal configured to receive, from a first
> sender, a first electronic mail item addressed to a recipient,
> wherein the first electronic mail item comprises a file;
>
> a mail processor configured to product a stripped electronic
> mail item by removing the file from the first electronic mail
> item and replacing it with a corresponding file handle;
>
> a storage device configured to store the file;
>
> a mail deliverer configured to send the stripped electronic mail
> item to the recipient;

This is supported in the specification in at least paragraph [0004]. These new limitations are found in neither Larson nor Prust. As applicants understand Larson, the reference teaches controlling a computer in limited ways via telephone: "A telephone access system which provides remote access and communication with a computer through a telephone handset," Larson, abstract. Further, as applicants understand Prust, that reference teaches remote data storage that appears to the end user to be local data storage: "A data storage system … that provides seamless access to remote data storage areas via a global computer network. The data storage system includes one or more storage servers coupled to one or more storage devices. The storage devices provide a plurality of virtual storage areas, where each virtual storage area is assigned to a user."

While these references are directed towards the remote access of data, neither discloses these techniques of processing an electronic email item by removing an attached

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file at the server level and then sending to the recipient an electronic email item with a file handle that references the file, where the recipient can use this file handle to manipulate the file remotely. As such, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants also respectfully submit that independent claims 18, 19 and 25 are in condition for allowance for similar reasons as claim 1 insomuch as they recite similar novel limitations as claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the dependent claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reason that all independent claims are in condition for allowance.

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